

Destination: Home Program (formerly the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness)

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Est. Completion Date: TBD.

Synopsis: County Supervisor Don Gage convened a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Homelessness, of which the City was an active partner. The BRC's purpose was to provide countywide leadership for the initiatives contained in the City and County's 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, as required for continued eligibility for Federal McKinney-Vento Grants. Working groups were focused on three principal areas: Prevent Homelessness, Shift to Housing First, and Increase the Housing Supply. On December 11, 2007, the County Board accepted the BRC's report with recommendations for ending homelessness by the year 2015 and solving the affordable housing crisis by 2020.

City View: In early 2008, Destination: Home was created to facilitate the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations. To ensure that Destination: Home is successful, a Steering Committee, consisting of the Directors of the City's Housing Department and the County's Office of Affordable Housing, a United Way Vice President, the Co-Chair of the County's Homeless Collaborative, and a nonprofit representative, was charged with ensuring the initial programmatic/service strategies continue to move forward. The Steering Committee's efforts are supported by staff from both the City of San José Housing Department and County Supervisor Don Gage's office, each of whom have been dedicating a percentage of their time to implementing the strategies. In addition, the Steering Committee hired a full-time Program Manager responsible for providing communications to Destination: Home and the community at large, administrative assistance, coordination support, along with other key roles.

The Steering Committee has made much progress in implementing the BRC's initiatives, including:

- In the fall of 2008, the first of two One-Stop Homeless Prevention Centers will open at the Georgia Travis Center to provide services from multiple agencies currently located throughout the County in one location. A second One-Stop Center, at the Boccardo Reception Center, focusing on the needs of chronically homeless persons, will open this winter. The City provided \$130,000 to InnVision to repair the roof at the Georgia Travis Center. The City will be providing InnVision with an additional \$100,000 for the rehabilitation needs of the Georgia Travis One-Stop Center and will provide funding for the rehabilitation needs of the second One-Stop Center at the Boccardo Reception

Center. The City will also provide funding for first-year operating costs, including a program manager position, at each site.

- In the fall of 2008, a 15 bed Medical Respite Facility will open at the Boccardo Center to provide homeless residents a place to recover following a hospital stay while receiving basic medical care and access to services and housing.
- The City continues to provide over \$1,200,000 annually for the administration of the Housing Services Partnership which assists homeless individuals and households and those at-risk of homelessness with a variety of services including homeless prevention, counseling, financial assistance, case management, and permanent housing placement.
- The City is providing \$150,000 to InnVision for the physical rehabilitation of the childcare center at the Georgia Travis Center (a drop-in center for homeless and at-risk households) to enable it to receive the State licensing needed to serve children while their parents look for housing, employment, or other essential services.
- The City has agreed to fund the first 15 months of an Executive Director position for Destination: Home.
- The City has coordinated the provision of six Project Homeless Connect events, one-day events that provide a range of services and housing opportunities at one location, and plans on holding additional events in the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009.
- The City is implementing a two-year, \$965,000 vocational training and employment program that will help homeless and at-risk residents gain the job skills and opportunities to start them down the road to self-sufficiency.

County View: On March 22, 2007, County Supervisor Gage convened a Blue Ribbon Commission on Ending Homelessness and Solving the Affordable Housing Crisis. The Commission consisted of 27 community leaders from government, business, labor, and the non-profit sector and met quarterly. Working groups, consisted of experts in their fields, were established in three main areas: Prevent Homelessness, Shift to Housing First, and Increase the Housing Supply.

The purpose of the Commission was to provide countywide leadership and support for the initiatives originally contained in the County's and City's 10-year plans to end homelessness, as required for continued eligibility for Federal McKinney-Vento Grants. The Commission also provided leadership and support for strategies contained in the recent LISC study, "Housing Silicon Valley: A 20-Year Plan to end the Affordable Housing Crisis."

The charge to the Commission was to:

- ❖ Review and adopt implementation strategies from the Working Groups.
- ❖ Launch a regional public education campaign to gain countywide support.
- ❖ Develop or access new sources of funding for housing and homelessness.
- ❖ Establish realistic goals and measurements for continuing success.

The goal was to raise awareness of housing and homelessness among community leaders, address the affordable housing crisis, and end homelessness.

On May 24, 2007, the Blue Ribbon Commission endorsed a number of immediate actions including:

1. Establishing a pilot project to improve access to benefits for the homeless;
2. Forming assessment committees to identify housing needs of individuals when they enter County systems (hospital, mental health, jails, and foster care) rather than at the time of discharge; and
3. Working with apartment owners and service providers to make renting an apartment easier for prospective tenants.

On December 11, 2007, the County Board accepted the BRC's report. The report outlined a comprehensive plan to achieve the BRC's objectives, with implementation to begin in early 2008. The Board also took action in directing the County Administration to work with the Valley Homeless Health staff on the viability of a 17-bed Medical Respite Facility and a One-Stop Multi-Service Center where services are physically and programmatically co-located for homeless and underserved clients.

The Blue Ribbon Steering Committee and the Administration are moving forward on the December 2007 recommendations and will report back to the BRC and Board throughout 2008. Implementation areas include: improving access to benefits for the homeless, shifting to housing first, assessing the feasibility and possible sites for a one-stop homeless prevention center, establishing a medical respite center, and recommending a permanent governance structure. The Blue Ribbon Committee Leadership Team is working with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to raise funds over a 5-year period. Agreements between the City, County, and United Way are being drafted to establish the United Way as the fiscal agent for the funds and hire a contract project manager. The Homeless Task Force Steering Committee will make recommendations relating to a permanent regional governance structure for housing and homelessness, and a fundraising campaign.

July 1, 2008 Status:

An Interim Blue Ribbon Commission Project has been established and is now known as "Destination: Home." The Interim Leadership Team is Don Gage (County), Chuck Reed (City), Emmett Carson (Community Foundation), Carole Leigh Hutton (United Way), Pete Kutras/Emily Harrison (County), Patricia Mahan (SCC Cities

Association), Alex Sanchez (Housing Authority). Progress on implementation of BRC recommendations is as follows:

- County contributed \$100,000 to cover costs of Interim Project Manager and associated costs.
- United Way contributed \$15,000 and in-kind office expenses
- County is establishing a 17-bed Medical Respite Center at the Boccardo Center to prevent homeless hospital patients from being released back to the streets.
- San Jose is establishing a One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center at Georgia Travis Day Center.
- The “Destination Home” Steering committee is currently evaluating the feasibility of two additional locations for One-Stop Homeless Prevention Centers.
- Forty-two (42) permanent supportive housing units for the homeless mentally ill have been assisted from the County’s Housing Plus Fund
- Applications have been submitted to the State MHSA Housing Program to fund 13 permanent supportive housing units for the homeless mentally ill.
- County and VTA have implemented the UPLIFT Transit Pass Program for homeless individuals who are in case management.
- San Jose is engaging the faith community in ending homelessness
- Grant applications to local foundations are being prepared and submitted and a three-way MOU is being drafted between the County, the City, and the United Way to receive contributions

August 15, 2008 Status:

- Interim Project Manager has been hired and is housed at the United Way. Funding of \$100,000 has been provided by the County for this use.
 - Grant materials have been prepared and conveyed to a number of local foundations.
 - Destination: Home web site has been established with 66 “sign-ups” so far.
 - On September 9, 2008, the County Board of Supervisors will consider redesign of the Cold Weather Shelter Program to a Shelter Outreach Program to provide outreach and services to homeless at the armories, as well as assist in establishment of a One-Stop Homeless Prevention Center at the Boccardo Center.
 - The State has approved one housing project submitted by the County Mental Health Department that will house homeless mentally-ill persons. This is the second project in the State to receive an approval. Ninety to one hundred (90-100) units are expected to be secured for this population over the next three years by accessing \$19.2 million from the MHSA program.
 - A Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement is being drafted between the County, City, and United Way so that private sector funds can be raised.
 - The Housing Authority has pledged 200 Section 8 Vouchers to house the homeless.
 - A Medical Respite Center at Boccardo Center is planned to open on October 27, 2008.
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- Two One-Stop Homeless Prevention Centers are planned for a November opening:
 - Georgia Travis will focus on at-risk and newly homeless.
 - Boccardo will focus on chronically homeless.
 - A first-run movie, “Where God Left His Shoes” is planned for screening at the Mexican Heritage Cultural Center on November 20th to raise awareness and support for Destination: Home.
 - A communications and marketing plan has been established.
 - On August 28, the Destination: Home Leadership Team met in Mayor Reed’s conference room to review all progress to date.
 - On September 9, 2008, the Board of Supervisors will consider a proposal to redesign the Cold Weather Shelter Program to provide direct outreach services and connection to the One-Stop Centers.
 - An interim governance structure for coordinating program and raising funds is currently being developed.
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ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

CITY/COUNTY PROGRESS



Shift in Priorities

Maintain Housing, not Homelessness

- Outreach and Engagement
- Discharge Planning
- Housing First
- Prevention

Destination: Home

“Housing Our Community”

- Government-Private Sector Partnership
- Realign existing resources
- Increase effectiveness of service delivery model
- Raise public awareness
- Strengthen political will
- Develop new sources of funding

Outreach and Engagement

- One-Stop Service Centers
- New Directions Program
- Medical Respite Center
- Project Homeless Connect
- Project Hope Employment
- Uplift Transit Pass

Prevention

- Housing Services Partnership
- MHSA Full Service Partnership
- Auto Repair Assistance Program
- Financial Assistance Collaborative
- The Haven/Emergency Relocation Funds

Housing First

- Create New ELI Affordable Housing
 - City - finance 475 units in the next 4 years
 - County - 1,700 new units since 2003
 - Housing Authority (200 Vouchers annually)
 - City Shallow Subsidy program (100 Vouchers annually)
- On-going Supportive Services
 - MHSA Full Service Partnerships
 - Destination: Home Fundraising Priority
 - AB 2097 (Coto)

Financial Commitments - City

City Commitments –

- Improve Access to Services - \$570,000
- Outreach & Engagement - \$1,000,000
- Prevention - \$1,265,000
- Housing First - \$56,500,000
- Total - \$59,335,000

Financial Commitments - County

- Since 2003, 1658 new housing units and 51 permanent shelter beds
- \$17.7 million County investment leveraged to \$400 million in overall investment: 20 to 1 ratio
- MHSA - \$7.2 million committed since 2007 to house homeless mentally ill; \$2 million Housing Plus Fund will create 60 additional units
- CWS program \$400,000 annually; Transit Pass: \$40,000

Housing First is Cost Effective

Housing First Cost Savings

City/County	Intervention Program	Savings/ Person/Year	Total Savings	Savings to...
Santa Clara County New Directions Program	89 frequent ER users	\$8,030	\$666,487	Hospitals, emergency rooms
San Diego	156 “drunk tank” users	\$7,130	\$1,112,280	Hospitals, emergency rooms
San Francisco	71 hospital users	\$16,300	\$1,157,300	General Hospital
Denver	19 chronic homeless	\$15,772	\$147,350	Hospitals, emergency rooms
Atlanta	60 mentally ill	\$18,333	\$1,099,980	Hospitals, jails, homeless service agencies

Measuring Success

- Biennial Homeless Counts
- HMIS Annual Report
- McKinney-Vento Grants
- Reduction in public costs (hospital, jails, etc.)